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HAROLD H. THOMPSON

Harold H. Thompson is an Anarchist prisoner serving life plus sentences in Tennessee, U S A.

He was arrested in Chattanooga, TN in 1979 for allegedly shooting to death a police informant/killer convicted of murdering the mother of Harold`s son who then threatened his son while out on appeal bond. Harold was also charged with expropriating money for political activities from a jewellery store. For these incidents he was given life plus 50 years. Later Harold was given an additional 21-75 years for a second shooting incident which occurred in Cleveland Ohio .

In November of 1986, Harold started a 5 year, 4 month stint in maximum security / solitary confinement after a failed armed escape attempt while in an East Tennessee prison. He was taken before a jury and charged with the attempted murder of three guards, kidnap of a hostage guard, possession of explosives, possession of a dangerous weapon and attempted escape. The judge sentenced Harold to 32 additional years. As Harold writes:

"The bastards might have my body but they will never break my spirit!" In July of 1993, after being released from solitary confinement for approximately 15 months (without a single disciplinary infraction report) while aiding other prisoners with their legal work (Harold isa jailhouse lawyer) he was framed-up for allegedly "in all likelyhood having possible escape plans" based on "outside confidential information" and put back in maximum security/solitary confinement where he remained until March 1995 at West Tennessee High Security Facility located in rural West Tennessee. In June 95 Harold was again reclassified to lower security but is still being held within the close security unit at W.T.H.S.F. pending transfer. Harold believes the lengthy delay in transferring him is more of the special treatment of "psychological torture mind games" the prisoncrats often give him because of his jailhouse lawyer activities and Anarchist politics which are openly abrasive to the prisoncrats.

Harold has endured numerous incidents of anarchist literature being confiscated within the prison`s mailroom, including recent censorship incidents during 1995 where literature was withheld because it contained "narratives of anarchy".

SUPPORT CLASS WAR PRISONERS

HAROLD`S HISTORY

Harold was born in West Virginia and is widely travelled. His parents (both now deceased) were Irish citizens, one from Northern Ireland and the other from the Republic of Ireland. They moved to the U.S. fleeing "the troubles ", so Harold, as a first generation Irish - American holds dual citizenship, since by Irish law the first generation retain Irish citizenship.

Harold first became politically active during the Vietnam war and has publicly stood in solidarity with revolutionaries persecuted by the U.S. government. Most particularly he has deep feelings for all those who struggle to bring about a united Ireland. In 1989 while incarcerated in Tennessee gulags, Harold was subpoenaed to the trial (in Springfield, M.A.) of the Ohio 7, by Raymond Luc Levasseur, one of the 7 individuals charged with the armed actions of the United Freedom Front and the Melville - Jackson Unit. Harold stands in solidarity with all anarchist prisoners held worldwide.

HAROLD`S CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Behind the walls, Harold is well known for his work as a " jailhouse lawyer" and says he copes with prison by fighting for his fellow prisoners in the courts for some semblance of real justice. *"The legal work I do is mostly of other prisoners appellate documents (drafting their legal briefs for submission to the courts), filing civil rights complaints on behalf of prisoners who have been abused / had their rights violated. I help them file proper grievances in the prison system and courts".*

Such activities have earned Harold intense provocation and harassment from prison guards, such as unlawful confiscation of his legal materials and lawbooks in past frequent cell searches and being the victim of a frame - up to enhance Harold`s security level for the sole purpose of unconstitutionally placing him in maximum security during 1993.

On the revolutionary movement Harold writes *"...we desperately need people in all areas of society, in all manner of professions and functions so that we can take care of our own, take care of each other. "Mutual Aid" is the key to defeating this monster with its oppressive tactics used to neutralize and destroy us. Relying on each other and not the system, takes the power of control away from the system, undermines its control and will eventually affect its total collapse..."*

On revolutionary prisoners Harold writes *"The Left overlooking prisoners as unimportant or un-persons plays right into the rightwings game wholeheartedly. It allows the oppressors to isolate prisoners, demoralise them through use of psychological torture techniques until they are robotic shells, institutionalized prisoners and the Left shoots itself in the proverbial foot by throwing away human resources or ignoring them until they break contact, or go away on their own."*

"Most of the Left are unfortunately mere armchair revolutionary spirits which flame bright for a while then melt back into the present fucked-up system when it is convenient to do so. They're brainwashed to believe prisoners are bad people, which is another myth perpetrated by the government to neutralise prisoners. Prisoners see the unmasked face of the government, know the hypocrisy of the present system, witness the brutality and ruthlessness of an unmasked, unchecked force of destruction and for these reasons alone have the potential of being the army of the Left but they are ignored. Any movement which does not support it`s fallen soldiers or prisoners is destined to failure and will get only a fraction of the support it calls for from it`s members".

"I work to awaken people in here politically but have seen too many give up trying to make contact with movement folks out there, or give up even attempting to learn about the various movements because of the inability to get literature from the various groups due to nothing more than apathy within these movements."

Finally he states *"I am an anti- authoritarian, anti-racist, anti-sexist, Anarchist revolutionary of proud Irish heritage. I am also a vegetarian and strongly support the animal liberation movement and the A.L.F. world- wide. I stand for civil/human rights and will not break, bend nor be intimidated. I stand in solidarity with all people struggling against oppression but most particularly with my many brothers and sisters in the Anarchist movement ".*

SUPPORTING CLASS WAR PRISONERS

It is vital that the many imprisoned revolutionaries like Harold are not forgotten. The *Anarchist Black Cross* and *Raze the Walls* are organising an on-going assistance campaign for Harold in the form of a cash stipend, stamps, movement literature and other requested items which may make his sentence a little easier. As we don`t have access to vast resources we would appreciate any assistance you can offer. You can help by sending donations (however small) to either of the following:

HAROLD THOMPSON SUPPORT CAMPAIGN
C/O MIKE LEE," RAZE THE WALLS ",
PO BOX 22774, SEATTLE,
W A .98122-0774, USA .

HAROLD THOMPSON SUPPORT CAMPAIGN
H UDDE R S FIE L D A B C
C/O 17-21 CHAPEL STREET,
BRA DFO R D, BD1 5DT, U.K.

Harold`s friends have recently formed a legal defence fund to raise money for the hire of a professional attorney to attempt to free Harold and give him back his life. The address for donations to it is:

HAROLD THOMPSON LEGAL DEFENCE FUND, P.O.BOX 2213,
C LEVELA N D, TENNESSEE, 37320-2213, USA .

We also ask people to add Harold to their group or publication`s mailing lists so that he can be kept updated on developments within the anarchist movement and the outside world in general. Harold states that "*all personal letters will be appreciated and perhaps keep loneliness from suffocating me as I carry on the good fight.*" You can write to him directly at:

HAROLD H. THOMPSON # 93992,
W.T.H.S.F., UNIT 5 - A-206, ROUTE 2,
BOX 1050, HENNING,
TENNESSEE,
38041-1050,
U S A.

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL !